

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-14 are currently being prosecuted. Claims 11 and 4 have been canceled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner rejected the drawings as not showing every feature of the claimed invention. In particular, the Examiner indicated that the distances LA, DA, and DB must be shown. By way of the present amendment, Applicants have submitted a new Fig. 5A which shows these distances. Applicants have also added the description of these distances to the specification to make them more clear. As shown in Fig. 5A, DA is the distance in the horizontal direction (as seen in Fig. 5A) between points half way between neighboring segments of the compensating elements. LA is the length of the block from which the compensating element is formed. LCn is the compensating element itself and also indicated by 540 after 540' has been removed from the segment. DB is the distance in the vertical direction (as seen in Fig. 5A) between the compensating elements and the resistance elements.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112

Claims 5 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner first points out that it is not clear what LA and DA are. This has now been corrected by the indication in Fig. 5A and also by the changes to the specification.

The Examiner also indicated the reference to silver paste lacks antecedent basis. This has now been inserted by combining the limitation of claim 4 into claim 1 and the limitation of claim 11 into claim 9. Also, the terminology "comprise the steps of" has been changed to "comprises". In view of this, Applicants submit that this rejection is removed.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112, first paragraph

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner again states that the specification does not make it clear what the intervals among the plurality of the compensating elements are and indicates that the term is not shown in the figures. By way of the present amendment, Applicants have indicated these lengths in the Figure and have included an additional paragraph in the Specification to describe the arrangement.

Concerning the Examiner's comment about the intervals between elements, Applicants submit that the language is proper. That is, the length DA for each segment is the same. Also, the length for each segment LA is the same. Since 540 in each case gets larger toward the middle, the intervals between the segments must be smaller in the middle and larger at the edges.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the specification and claims now fully describe the present invention. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse (Reg. No. 27,295) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant respectfully petitions for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$510.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By Joe McKinney Muncy, #32,334
Joe McKinney Muncy, #32,334
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

km KM/RFG/mlr/csm
4407-0108P

Attachment(s): One (1) sheet of drawings - Fig. 5A

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is one (1) sheet of corrected formal drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected formal drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

Fig. 5A is submitted with the distances being indicated.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.